

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00526 01 OF 02 281610Z  
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 /090 W  
-----281721Z 089548 /45

R 281533Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2497  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0526

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, ET, US  
SUBJ: ISA/DSAA REPS MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0475 (270944Z JAN 77)

1. FOLLOWING PLENARY SESSION ISA/DSAA/MAAG/MOND REVIEW OF  
ETHIOPIAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, DEFENSE MINISTER  
AYALEW REQUESTED PRIVATE MEETING WITH ISA REP (COL.  
HILLENBRANDT) AND DSAA REP (MR. SOMMER) TO CONVEY "CONFIDENTIAL  
MESSAGE TO GEN. FISH."

2. MINISTER AYALEW OPENED BY REEMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF  
LONG-STANDING AMMO REQUEST TO EPMG'S DETERMINATION  
TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY (SEE REFTEL). THE MINISTER THEN  
REFERRED TO GEN. FISH'S RECENT LETTERS ON PEACE SPARK AND  
ASKED ISA/DSAA REPS TO PERSONALLY THANK HIM FOR HIS SUCCESS-  
FUL EFFORTS TO RECTIFY THE PEACE SPARK PROGRAM. THE  
MINISTER ADDED HE HAD REQUESTED A PRIVATE MEETING IN  
SPIRIT OF SAFEGUARDING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO  
GOVTS DURING TURBULENT PERIOD IN ETHIOPIAN HISTORY,  
"A PERIOD IN WHICH HISTORY IS EXPLODING; CALM HAS NOT  
YET RETURNED." HE EMPHASIZED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00526 01 OF 02 281610Z

CURRENT ETHIOPIAN SECURITY SITUATION AND THAT THE REVOLU-  
TION HAS BROUGHT WITH IT THE NEED FOR DIVERSIFICATION IN  
ARMAMENT SOURCES. HE SAID THE EPMG HAS HAD CONTACTS  
WITH NEW SOURCES: THE CHINESE, THE SOVIETS, AND MANY  
OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE WANTED TO ASSURE THE U.S.  
THAT "THIS IS NOT BACKDOOR ACTIVITY THAT IS GOING  
ON." HE MADE THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES AND ADDED THAT IF

IT LOOKS LIKE BACKDOOR ACTIVITY IT IS UNFORTUNATE, THAT ANY BACKDOOR IMPRESSION IS AT REQUEST OF OTHER SUPPLIERS, AND THAT THIS ACTIVITY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE SAID THE EPMG WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. BUT TURN TO OTHERS IN AREAS WHERE THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

3. THE MINISTER SAID THE EPMG WISHES TO GET BETTER ARRANGEMENTS FOR CREDIT AND BECAUSE OF U.S. FMS CREDIT TERMS MUST LOOK ELSEWHERE. HE SAID WHEN ETHIOPIA REJECTED U.S. CREDIT, IT WAS APOLITICAL, A PURELY ECONOMICAL DECISION BECAUSE ETHIOPIA IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH LIMITED RESOURCES. HE NOTED THE SEVERE CRITICISM HE RECEIVES FROM THE REST OF THE CABINET BECAUSE SO MUCH IS SPENT FOR DEFENSE, THAT WHEN THE CABINET LEARNED U.S. CREDIT WAS OFFERED AT 8.125 PERCENT, THEY SAID, "THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE." HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE OFFERED EQUIPMENT AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 2 PERCENT FOR TEN YEARS, THEN EMPHASIZED THE EQUIPMENT IS DEFENSIVE, NOT OFFENSIVE.

4. HE STRESSED THAT ETHIOPIA IS TODAY NON-ALIGNED, THAT ETHIOPIA IS NOT PLANNING TO ATTACK ANYONE, BUT MUST BE PREPARED TO PROTECT ITSELF, AND, THEREFORE, THE EPMG MUST SEEK THE BEST ARRANGEMENTS HWEREVER IT CAN GET THEM. HE SAID THE GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION DEMANDS THAT ETHIOPIA HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF AND ADDED IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION THAT OFFERED THE GOOD INTEREST RATE HE MENTIONED EARLIER. HE NOTED THAT WHILE SOVIET AID

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00526 01 OF 02 281610Z

MIGHT BE A SENSITIVE ISSUE TO THE U.S., HE PERSONALLY WANTED TO ENSURE THE U.S. THAT ETHIOPIA WISHES TO PRESERVE GOOD RELATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00526 02 OF 02 281611Z

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 /090 W

-----281722Z 089567 /45

R 281533Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2498

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0526

5. HE OPINED THAT LATELY "WE HAVE FOUND THE ATTITUDE (OF U.S. PERSONNEL) HERE VERY COOL. IF WE DON'T INITIATE TALKS WITH THEM, THEY DON'T TALK TO US. WE HOPE THIS IS NOT BASED ON AN OFFICIAL POSITION FROM WASHINGTON." (ISA/ DSAA REPS SAID THEY KNEW OF NO WASHINGTON INSTRUCTION THAT WOULD CAUSE ANY SUCH IMPRESSION.) HE ADDED THIS MIGHT BE ONLY A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE U.S. THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE. HE UNDERLINED HIS GOVT'S ATTITUDE IS TO SEEK A BALANCED COURSE DURING THIS TURBULENT PERIOD. HE NOTED THAT LAST WEEK THEY HAD TALKED TO EAST GERMANS, THAT THEY HAVE TALKED TO MANY COUNTRIES, BUT, "WE THINK WE ARE STILL A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND WISH TO REMAIN THAT WAY." HE ASKED AGAIN THAT THIS MESSAGE BE CONVEYED TO GEN. FISH.

6. COMMENT: MAAG AND EMBASSY READ FOREGOING AYALEW REMARKS, ON THE ONE HAND, AS A SIMPLE AND DIRECT INQUIRY TO DETERINE WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE ALTERED ITS POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, AS AYALEW'S OWN PLEA FOR THE U.S. NOT TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON AVAILABILITY OF U.S. ARMS TO ETHIOPIA. HIS REMARKS COULD HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY A HOST OF THINGS: THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION, THE JAN 23 PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00526 02 OF 02 281611Z

NEWS CONFERENCE, THE APPROACHING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT LIMITATIONS ON MAAGS AND MAP BEYOND FY 77, POSSIBLE RUNORS THEY MAY HAVE PICKED UP SOMEWHERE, OF NO MAP FOR ETHIOPIA IN 78 AND/OR INDICATIONS OF POLICY REVIEWS WITH REGARD TO ETHIOPIA. WE ASSUME HIS REMARK ABOUT A COOL U.S. ATTITUDE HERE MUST BE IN REFERENCE TO MAAG, AND PERHAPS DAO, AS THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY THE ONLY ONES WHO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE MOND AND ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES. WE FIND THAT REMARK STRANGE AS MOST MAAG PERSONNEL ARE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH COUNTERTOP PARTS AT ALL LEVELS ON SUBJECTS SPANNING THE MILITARY SPECTRUM, THOUGH THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS MET WITH OVERWHELMING ENTHUSIASM, AND WE THEREFORE INTEND EXPLORE IT FURTHER WITH AYALEW ON AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION. THE FACT IS THAT THE EPMG HAS ITSELF DELIBERATELY AND SUB-

STANTIALY INHIBITED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAAG AND  
THE MOND/EMF OVER THE PAST YEAR, AS FLATLY ACKNOWLEDGED  
TO CMAAG BY AYALEW AT THE LATTER'S INITIATIVE ON 8 SEP  
76 AFTER DISCUSSION OF EPMG'S REJECTION OF FY 77 FMS  
CREDIT. THIS INHIBITION HAS TAKEN MANY FORMS FROM  
NEARLY TOTAL REJECTION OF SOCIAL CONTACT, TO NON-AVAILABILITY  
TO OFFICIAL CALLS/VISITS ON CERTAIN OFFICES AND INDIVIDUALS,  
TO NON-RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR INFO NECESSARY TO  
SATISFY SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS. AT THE SAME  
TIME, PROBLEMS WITH CERTAIN FMS AND MAP CASES FOR WHICH  
MAAG HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN IN A POSITION TO FURNISH SATIS-  
FACTORILY, AND AT TIMES "ANY," ANSWERS TO EPMG  
INQUIRIES HAVE DOUBTLESS CONTRIBUTED TO EPMG  
SUSPICIONS OF A CHANGING U.S. POLICY -- THUS ERRONEOUSLY  
SEEN AS MAAG COOLNESS.  
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS00526  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770031-0818  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770110/aaaaaikh.tel  
**Line Count:** 186  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ffa7b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ADDIS ABABA 475  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3478240  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISA/DSAA REPS MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE MINISTER  
**TAGS:** MASS, ET, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbsc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ffa7b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009